



## ESSENTIALS OF “WHO WE ARE”

### MISSION

Redemption Church exists to make authentic disciples of Jesus who live for the glory of God and the good of our world.

### VISION

We want to help everyday people wake up to deep, meaningful life in Christ.

### VALUES

As we explore the life of Jesus together, we're finding ourselves drawn to these realities time and time again. These are the guardrails that keep us on Jesus' kingdom road.

#### **Gospel Centered | It all starts with Jesus.**

Jesus came to tell us, and show us, that there's more to life—a life more fulfilling than any life apart from him. This life is available right now, today, and he's made a way for us to experience it. At Redemption, everything we do starts with the good news of what Jesus has done for us and the truth that following Him changes us in real and lasting ways.

#### **Biblically Guided | The Bible tells me so.**

There are a seemingly infinite number of ideas and approaches for how we can live the good life. We each feel the push and pull of our own desires and of the influences all around us. At Redemption, we recognize that we need God's help to navigate our days and chart our course. We believe the Bible is God's message to the world to help direct our thoughts and actions. We allow the Word of God to speak into every area of our lives, and we trust that God's way is the most fulfilling way to live.

#### **Authentic Community | We need each other.**

The kind of life that Jesus offers isn't something that we were meant to experience alone. It's about being connected to other people who are also exploring the fullness of this life, and applying the gospel of Jesus to everyday life. As we walk through life together—through the good, the bad, the struggles, and the celebrations—we discover a richness to life that only comes through relationships that matter.

#### **Missional Living | We've got a job to do.**

We aren't supposed to keep this discovery of a deep, more meaningful life to ourselves. We demonstrate the power of following Jesus to the people and community around us by seeking the good of our world — helping the needy, giving a hand to those who are struggling, and showing the love of Jesus to everyone we meet. The greatest good we can offer our city is an introduction to Jesus. This means that we lead those around us by living out what it means to follow Jesus and follow it up with the story of how Jesus changes our lives. We want to show it clearly ... and then share it boldly.

#### **Relentless Stewardship | We've got something to give.**

The essence of this new life in Jesus is the act of giving. God gave His Son, Jesus, to do for us what we couldn't do for ourselves—to bring us into this new kind of life. How do we respond to that? What should that produce in our hearts and in our lives? We believe that if we're truly going to live out the fullness of this life, we've got to make constant strides in giving to others out of what God has given to us. When this kind of generosity takes hold in you, you'll respond by sharing in every way you can—in your time, in your skills and gifts, and even in your finances. At Redemption, we give because God is changing our hearts and inviting us to respond.

## STRUCTURE

Redemption Church is a community on a mission. It's not just any community. And it's not just any mission. Both of these center on the good news (or gospel) of what Jesus has done and the truth that following Him changes us in real and lasting ways. We are exploring and continually discovering that life is deeper, richer, and better (though not necessarily easier) when following Jesus Christ.

The head of Redemption Church is Jesus Christ. We seek to reflect the gospel and priorities of Jesus in all we do. No decision is ever made that would knowingly contradict his teaching or desires for us.

On a day-to-day level, we are structured as follows:

### **Volunteer | Operated**

Almost everything that happens at Redemption Church is done through volunteers who invest time and energy to make our services and ministries possible. We share the job and joys of sharing the gospel of Jesus and making a difference in our community by contributing our talents to the church in a serving role. We desire everyone at Redemption to use their gifts, talents, and time through involvement on a serve team. Even if their primary ministry takes place elsewhere, everyone serves on Sunday as a part of the family. Our serve team leaders are immensely valuable to this mission and function in a similar manner as those described as deacons in the Bible (Acts 6:1-7).

### **Group Leaders | Disciplined**

Our small group leaders are crucial to who we are as a community. They are the backbone of our structure, helping the people in their groups to explore and discover what it means to follow Jesus every day. These small group communities are the primary circle of care and connection for our people. We desire everyone at Redemption to make disciples through involvement in group life.

### **Staff | Led**

Our staff members provide opportunity, equipping, encouragement, and support to people who serve God by doing all the things that need to be done to execute our strategy and accomplish the mission. They are held responsible for their faithful adherence to and execution of the doctrine (or beliefs) and direction (vision, values and culture) of the elders.

### **Elder | Overseen**

The elders are the highest level of authority in the local church (cf., Acts 14:23, Hebrews 13:17, Titus 1:5) and are ultimately responsible for the doctrine, direction and discipline of Redemption Church. As a new church, we have operated with an Elder Advisory Board who have walked with us in the church planting process since before we launched as a new church. You can read about these men on our website. In the near future, we will be appointing elders from within our church body to take on this oversight responsibility.

## MISSION MAP

At Redemption, there are four key aims that we want everyone to do as we pursue this mission together. We believe these four goals are interconnected and interdependent in the life of a believer, meaning that they are each essential in a healthy life of faith.

### BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

The Gospel is the good news that God loves broken people like us. Jesus has done everything necessary to save us and restore us to joy-filled relationship with God. We invite skeptics, seekers, doubters, and followers to find out more about the life he promises and to

learn to trust God's grace more and more. The church provides a community where you can explore the possibilities of life with Jesus and all that it means for your past, your present and your future.

### BELONG IN COMMUNITY

We grow best when we are connected in authentic community, so we are intentional about connecting people in Redemption Groups to learn, laugh, challenge, struggle, serve, and share life together. Following Jesus daily isn't as easy as you might think, especially when you try to do it alone. Part of the promise of this life in Jesus is that we are not alone—we are connected to God and to each other in meaningful ways. By being connected in a small group you'll experience God-honoring relationships that encourage you, challenge you, and help you grow.

### GROW AS A DISCIPLE

We want to be a church where discipleship is talked about, invested in, celebrated, lived. We want to help everyone be equipped and trained to live as a vibrant follower of Jesus who experiences the deep gospel transformation in every area of life. We want to help one another live in light of the gospel and in line with the gospel. Together, we pursue growth as followers of Jesus who are well-equipped for life. We want to multiply healthy disciples, families, leaders, and churches.

### GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

God didn't wait for us to come to Him, He sent Jesus to bring the promise of a new kind of life to us and make a difference in the world. Jesus told his disciples, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." This means that mission is not just for a few people—we are all called to fulfill Jesus' mission and make a difference in our families, neighborhoods, city and world. So, we share the story of how Jesus has changed us, and we want to show the power of his love to the people around us. This won't happen unless we're intentional and focus on making a difference. Who are the people in your life that you are going to pray for and reach out to with the message of a better life in Jesus? What would it look like for you to go into their world and show them the love of Jesus? That's what we want to do.

